

from ALS is akin to taking part in their own funeral. Family, friends, and physicians can only stand helplessly by and watch the terrible and inevitable deterioration.

ALS cuts across all racial, gender and social lines, claiming more than 5,000 victims every year, with approximately 13 new cases diagnosed each day. An estimated 300,000 Americans, who are alive and apparently well today, will be diagnosed and ultimately die from ALS.

In the brief time since its inception, the Squirrel Run has been an amazing success, especially considering this grassroots effort was conceived and initiated by two proud amateurs, starting with nothing but pain and frustration. The Quincy natives, Richard Kennedy and Martin Levenson, have teamed to make the Squirrel Run a visible and successful example of how hard work, dedication and commitment to a cause can make a difference in peoples' lives.

All proceeds from the Squirrel Run go directly to the Day Neuromuscular Research Lab at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. The Day Lab is at the forefront of the battle against ALS, and world-renowned for research into its cause and cure. The success of the Squirrel Run will benefit citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as well as ALS victims worldwide who are desperately seeking a cure.

I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting the commitment of all those associated with Squirrel Run III and to draw on this dedication to redouble our own efforts to accelerate research to overcome the challenge of ALS.

#### CONCERN FOR ZIMBABWE

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2000*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me little pleasure to have to introduce this resolution concerning the intimidation and violence that the ruling party of Zimbabwe continues to inflict upon its own citizens.

It saddens me because President Robert Mugabe once spoke passionately and persuasively of justice, liberty, and majority rule. Destiny led this Jesuit-trained school teacher to become the leader of a liberation movement. His passionate intensity aroused sympathy for his cause from people around the world.

But at some point during the past twenty years, that vision of a peaceful, democratic Zimbabwe has become twisted and bent. The president seems to believe that it is his birthright to rule and that he will live forever. The ruling party seems to equate legitimate political competition with treasonable offenses. And officials throughout the government seem to regard their positions of public trust as licenses to steal from their own citizens.

Earlier this year, the people of Zimbabwe soundly rejected a constitutional referendum that would have given the president even greater powers. Commercial farmers, both black and white, as well as the commercial farm workers who comprise 26 percent of Zimbabwe's labor force, fought the referendum and won.

Surprised that anyone should dare question its authority, the ruling party, at the direction of the president, launched a brutal and cynical campaign to cow its political opponents into submission. Peaceful opposition demonstrators have been beaten, harassed, and detained by state security forces. Roving bands of political thugs for hire have beaten farm workers, killed farmers and livestock, burned crops, and stolen equipment. Corruption, greed, and dirty tactics have become the defining characteristics of a once-proud ZANU party leadership.

These activities have not gone unnoticed among Zimbabwe's neighbors and democratic nations around the world. Zimbabwe's law requires that parliamentary elections be held within the next few months. The intimidation and state-sponsored violence we have observed these past few months are designed to keep all power in the hands of the ruling party, which currently holds 147 of the 150 seats of parliament.

These tactics are not just misguided; they are also destined to fail. The people of Zimbabwe are patient. They are loyal. They are respectful of those who fought for liberation. But they are not cowards. They are not ignorant. And their patience is limited.

Every time a farm worker is beaten for asserting his right of free speech, ZANU loses support. Every time a Zimbabwean soldier dies in Congo for a war that means nothing to his family, ZANU loses support. Every time a field lies fallow because the farmers have been driven off, ZANU loses support. And every time land promised to the people winds up in the hands of a corrupt party official, ZANU loses support.

President Mugabe has made the gravest mistake any politician can make: he has underestimated the people he governs.

H. Res. 500 expresses the House of Representatives profound dismay at the practices of Zimbabwe's current leadership and our sincere wish that the people of Zimbabwe, who deserve the political freedoms many of them fought for, will remain steadfast in their peaceful pursuit of democratic reform.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the text of H. Res. 500 at this point in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### H. RES. 500

Whereas people around the world supported the Republic of Zimbabwe's quest for independence, majority rule, and the protection of human rights and the rule of law;

Whereas Zimbabwe, at the time of independence in 1980, showed bright prospects for democracy, economic development, and racial reconciliation;

Whereas the people of Zimbabwe are now suffering the destabilizing effects of a serious, government-sanctioned breakdown in the rule of law, which is critical to economic development as well as domestic tranquility;

Whereas a free and fair national referendum was held in Zimbabwe in February 2000 in which voters rejected proposed constitutional amendments to increase the president's authorities to expropriate land without payment;

Whereas the President of Zimbabwe has defied two high court decisions declaring land seizures to be illegal;

Whereas previous land reform efforts have been ineffective largely due to corrupt prac-

tices and inefficiencies within the Government of Zimbabwe;

Whereas recent violence in Zimbabwe has resulted in several murders and brutal attacks on innocent individuals, including the murder of farm workers and owners;

Whereas violence has been directed toward individuals of all races;

Whereas the ruling party and its supporters have specifically directed violence at democratic reform activists seeking to prepare for upcoming parliamentary elections;

Whereas the offices of a leading independent newspaper in Zimbabwe have been bombed;

Whereas the Government of Zimbabwe has not yet publicly condemned the recent violence;

Whereas President Mugabe's statement that thousands of law-abiding citizens are enemies of the state has further incited violence;

Whereas 147 out of 150 members of the Parliament in Zimbabwe (98 percent) belong to the same political party;

Whereas no date has been set for parliamentary elections in Zimbabwe;

Whereas the unemployment rate in Zimbabwe now exceeds 60 percent and political turmoil is on the brink of destroying Zimbabwe's economy;

Whereas the economy is being further damaged by the Government of Zimbabwe's ongoing involvement in the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Whereas the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization has issued a warning that Zimbabwe faces a food emergency due to shortages caused by violence against farmers and farm workers; and

Whereas events in Zimbabwe could threaten stability and economic development in the entire region: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) extends its support to the vast majority of citizens of the Republic of Zimbabwe who are committed to peace, economic prosperity, and an open, transparent parliamentary election process;

(2) strongly urges the Government of Zimbabwe to enforce the rule of law and fulfill its responsibility to protect the political and civil rights of all citizens;

(3) supports those international efforts to assist with land reform which are consistent with accepted

(4) condemns government-directed violence against farm workers, farmers, and opposition party members;

(5) encourages the local media, civil society and all political parties to work together toward a campaign environment conducive to free, transparent and fair elections within the legally prescribed period;

(6) recommends international support for voter education, domestic election monitoring, and violence monitoring activities;

(7) urges the United States to continue to monitor violence and condemn brutality against law abiding citizens;

(8) congratulate all the democratic reform activists in Zimbabwe for their resolve to bring about political change peacefully, even in the face of violence and intimidation;

(9) recommends that the United States send a bipartisan delegation under the auspices of the International Republican Institute and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs to observe the parliamentary education process in Zimbabwe; and

(10) desires a lasting, warm, and mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and democratic, peaceful Zimbabwe.